

ROCKLAND FINANCE COMMITTEE
ROCKLAND TOWN HALL
ROCKLAND, MA 02370

March 10, 2010

In attendance at the March 10, 2010 Finance Committee meeting were Bill Allen, John Ellard, Rich Penney, Bob MacDonald, Joe Gambon, Julie Shaffer, Rachel Gear and Paula Ferguson. Absent were Dolores Baronas, Ian Curran and Caryn Stevens.

The meeting was brought to order at 6:33 p.m. by Chairman John Ellard.

A motion was made by Bill Allen and seconded by Rich Penney to accept the minutes from the February 24, 2010 meeting. A unanimous vote was taken.

TOWN COLLECTOR: Judy Hartigan presented her budget. She may need to increase her postage allowance due to the mailing out of real estate bills, excise tax bills and an additional supplemental bill that went out in August. She currently has 2 ½ people working in her department. She is trying to save costs by not having to pay for vacation coverage with not taking five vacation days in a row. She works very closely with the Accounting Department and the Treasurer's office in trying to stream line cash receipts. The Accounting Department has been very helpful with the learning curve and feels that she does not need to rely on them as much as before. John Ellard will check with Eric Hart regarding the discrepancy with the budget that was given to us from the Board of Selectmen and the budget that Judy presented to us. She is currently looking at the cost effectiveness to mail out the real estate bills every six months considering the additional work it generates with people forgetting to pay the second bill generating additional reminder mailings.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Tom Ruble presented his budget. He is looking for an increase in dues and meetings and mileage. He is required to maintain 45 CEUs every three years to remain certified. In order to increase this particular line item, he is considering increasing revenue approximately \$11,000 with inspections of multi-family homes that have not been done since 1980. Permits are currently down from 50 to 42. He would like an increase of \$1000 for building and plumbing seminars that he is required to go to. A question was raised regarding his car allowance. He currently gets payment for 2 gallons of gas per day. Where did that particular amount on that line item was asked and it was reported that it was there before Mr. Ruble was made building inspector. The committee asked him to keep track of his daily mileage for a year to see if reimbursement is sufficient. Mr. Ruble agreed to comply with this request and will get back to us.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES: Dues are \$165.00, meetings \$185 and sundries are \$300.00. The National Conference is \$75.00 and gets books worth \$150.00. He also needs CEUs to remain certified for Weights and Measures.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS: The interviews are on their way for the Construction Manager. Currently there are four candidates. They should have a contractor shortly.

There is an expected cut of 5% on local aid.

Paula brought up a request from Allan Chiocca about sending the minutes of the meeting to Department

Heads after they are voted on. After discussion, it was suggested to continue as we are so that if a department would like to add or change something, it can be done before the minutes are voted on.

A motion was made to add the Energy Committee to the budget process by Julie Shaffer and seconded by Rachel Gear. A unanimous vote was taken. No money was added to this budget.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the lower Conference Room.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. by Joe Gambon, seconded by Rich Penney. A unanimous vote was taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Ferguson
Secretary
Rockland Finance Committee